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Tax Preparation: A New Career Option for Displaced Employees?

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A new career in income tax preparation could be a safety net for some employees who have lost their jobs due to the economic recession. Many of those being laid off are older employees who may not be able to find another comparable full-time job, but are not ready to retire. Homemakers with young children can also help to supplement the family income by learning to become tax preparers. Good people skills and professionalism are also prerequisites. However, knowledge of accounting and math are not necessary to become a tax preparer. Preparing individual tax returns involves only basic arithmetic.

Today more than ever, people are relying on paid tax professionals to handle their income tax preparation and other business affairs. Even with tax preparation software in full force there is increasing demand for tax professionals. More than **75 million individual taxpayers use a paid tax professional every year**, as the tax laws continue to become more complicated. Shorter deadlines, competing priorities, endless meetings, wireless Internet, and cell phones all contribute to creating a more time-starved world. As we struggle with managing the elusive resource of "time", coupled with ever-changing tax laws, delegation of tax preparation becomes a higher priority. Many people are turning to professional tax preparers for assistance. E-filing, automation and even demographic changes have also created new opportunities in the tax preparation industry. However, there is a shortage of qualified seasonal tax professionals.

Tax preparation can be a very lucrative seasonal career, either as an employee of a tax or accounting firm, or as an independent tax practitioner. A veteran tax professional can earn up to **\$100 per hour or more** during tax season. Tax preparation can also be combined with other professions, such as bookkeeping and financial services, to create year-round employment or self-employment if desired.

After completing just one 10-week course a career in tax preparation can be launched. Continued career growth can then be attained by gaining experience and continuing professional education in advanced individual and small business tax preparation. The Income Tax School offers a Comprehensive Income Tax Course consisting of twenty 3-hour lessons (60 hours of instruction). The course (\$499 including books) covers most individual tax returns prepared by U.S. taxpayers. The Income Tax School also offers a series of advanced individual and small business tax courses that can be taken individually or as a certificate program. Students who complete the certificate program successfully and document the experience requirement are awarded the Chartered Tax Professional-CTP® professional designation.

All of the **tax courses are online**, making it easy for students to study and complete assignments anytime, anywhere with Internet access — 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! The Comprehensive Tax Course assumes no prior tax or accounting knowledge. **Instructor support** from veteran tax professionals who work in the industry every day is provided by email. In addition, there is a forum where students can post questions and receive responses from the instructor and fellow students.

Becoming a tax professional is a quick and inexpensive way for displaced employees to embark on new professional careers, while also learning to save on their own taxes and preparation fees!. For additional information, contact The Income Tax School at 804-204-1040 or visit www.theincometaxschool.com.

About The Income Tax School:

The Income Tax School (ITS) was founded in 1990 by Charles E. McCabe who serves as its President and CEO. ITS is certified as a private career school by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). The School currently offers some 35 online income tax education programs, ranging from 3-hour Continuing Professional Education (CPE) seminars to 30-80 hour courses, as well as the prestigious ITS Chartered Tax Professional-CTP® certificate program. ITS provides e-learning nationwide to tax, accounting and financial services professionals. ITS also publishes student textbooks and instructor guides for classroom instruction by firms that provide in-house tax training, as well as colleges and career schools. Complete information can be found at: <http://www.theincometaxschool.com>